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# **News Release**

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## **2 plead guilty to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine**

Two individuals pleaded guilty today in federal court to being involved in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine base, commonly known as crack cocaine, in the Twin Cities.

Jessie Ulysses Brown, 29, Minneapolis, and Fred Dee Taylor, 31, Chicago, Ill., each pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute 50 or more grams of crack cocaine. They were indicted on April 15, 2009, and entered their pleas in St. Paul before United States District Court Judge Patrick Schiltz.

In their plea agreements, Brown and Taylor admitted they planned to distribute 471 grams of crack cocaine. On March 25, the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office executed search warrants at Brown's residence. Both defendants, who were present at the time, attempted to flee the premises but were apprehended. The search of the home yielded crack cocaine in the kitchen, most of which was packaged for distribution in small bags.

Brown and Taylor face a potential maximum penalty of life in prison for their crimes. Judge Schiltz will determine their sentences at a future date. This case is the result of an investigation by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas M. Hollenhorst.